

Member	David Davis	Electorate	Southern Metro
Period	01 October 2023 to 31 December 2023		

Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$12,079.83
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$3,340.96

Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance	
Total amount paid to member for motor vehicle allowance	\$0.00
Member did not receive the motor vehicle allowance in the previous quarter and member has elected to receive the motor vehicle allowance for this quarter	No

Regulation 9 - Parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	
Total amount paid to member for parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	\$0.00
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	n/a

Regulation 10 - Travel allowance claims					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Town or city in which accommodation was located	Value of the accommodation
Total number of nights for travel allowance claims			0		
Total amount paid to member for travel allowance			\$0.00		

Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Mode of transport	Value of transport
Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims			0		
Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance			\$0.00		

Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
07-Jul-23	28-Jul-23	Accommodation, living expenses: Greece, Italy, France & UK	\$5,744.16
Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims			21
Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance			\$5,744.16
See attached travel report for further details			

Report on a visit to Thessaloniki, Athens, Crete, Milan, Paris and London

July 2023

Conducted by:
The Hon David Davis MP
Shadow Special Minister of State
Shadow Minister for the Arts and Creative Industries
Member for Southern Metropolitan Region

Statement of objectives

- To build closer links with sister states and cities and key international arts and creative industries organisations and stakeholders and also enhance my understanding of other economic opportunities for Victoria.
- To enhance and broaden my understanding and knowledge relating to the broader international arts community and collections.
- To enhance and broaden my understanding and knowledge around scrutiny of legislation and regulations in other democracies and integrity and anti-corruption legislation in other democracies, specifically in the UK.

Reason for travel

In July 2023, I travelled to meet government, regional, municipal and gallery officials in Athens, Thessaloniki, Crete, Milan, Paris and London. Airfares totalled \$9,990 and return private transfers at each destination to a total of \$1,000. The trip related to both parliamentary business with my roles as Shadow Special Minister of State, Shadow Minister for the Arts and Creative Industries and Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee, particularly in Westminster, and electorate business.

On electorate business, I visited Greece given the significant Greek community in Southern Metropolitan Region, including Oakleigh, and (parliamentary business) to further my knowledge of the arts and creative industries with relevant applications to Victoria and to reinforce ties with the Greek community in the light of common Second World War allied links.

I also visited Milan (a sister city of Melbourne) noting the recent negotiation and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on a Strategic Partnership between the Lombardy region and the State of Victoria. This includes the cultural and creative industries. In Milan I also discussed with officials the forthcoming 20th anniversary of the sister city relationship.

In Paris, I sought to further the links between Victoria, the NGV, and the Musée d'Orsay and the Fondation Cartier. I met with gallery officials to build and enhance the relationship with these important French galleries.

In London, as Shadow Special Minister of State and Deputy Chair of SARC, I visited Westminster officials to understand their experience and learnings on parliamentary integrity including the relevance of British learnings to recent IBAC and Ombudsman reports advising ways to strengthen

parliamentary oversight, parliamentary integrity and anti-corruption measures for the Victorian Parliament.

Thessaloniki

I was in Thessaloniki from 8-11 July and stayed at the Andromeda Hotel at a cost of \$500. The prefecture of Thessaloniki covers a large area of the north of Greece based on the city of Thessaloniki. In Thessaloniki, I was honoured to meet with representatives of Governor Mr Apostolos Tzitzikostas, including Ms Lemonia Papadopoulou, Head of International Relations contacts and Ms Evridinki Tsouglou, Head of Unit at the Governor's office. We discussed the historic links between Thessaloniki and Victoria including the economic links. Social links are also important and were discussed, including the Thessaloniki film festival and the importance of the relationship between Thessaloniki, Melbourne and the state of Victoria. The governor was in the United States of America.

I was provided with literature and information on Thessaloniki and its region's economy, trade and priorities of the regional authorities.

I also visited the Jewish War Memorial noting the very significant impact on the Jewish community after the Nazi invasion during WWII. I was greatly impressed with the city of Thessaloniki, its magnificent museums including the Museum of Byzantine Culture and the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki. I also saw many of the city's great churches and was fortunate enough to hear a service of Agios Nikolaos Orfanos (The Church of Saint Nicholas Orphanos), noting the importance of the church within the Greek community within Melbourne, including my electorate.

Crete

I was in Crete from 11-14 July and stayed at the El Greco Heraklion at a cost of \$300. I was honoured to meet with Mr Nikolaos Sirigonakis, the Regional Vice Governor – Regional Unit Heraklion. A range of matters were discussed, including economic and social links. The meeting was arranged with the assistance of the Melbourne Consul, Emmanuel Kakavalakos and former president of the Pan Cretan Association of Melbourne, Emmanuel Starakis. I was assisted with translation by an Australian with Cretan heritage. We discussed tourism in Crete and economic development as well as the education system. Also discussed were matters surrounding exchanges between Crete and Victoria. I was interested to understand more of the role of the regional Governor and Vice-Governor.

The discussions on tourism included the role of the prominent ruins at Knossos and other early ruins on Crete. The Deputy Governor presented me with a replica of the disc of Phaistos. An exact copy of the disc in the Heraklion museum dating from 17th century BC.

I met Mayor Vasillis Lambrinos in the council offices in the centre of Heraklion. Again, with the assistance of an Australian translator. He was very well informed regarding ANZAC history in Crete. He gave me a copy of The Battle for Heraklion which I intend to share with a number of my local RSL subbranches. We also discussed the significant social and economic links between Crete and Victoria. The Mayor gave me advice on what to see at Heraklion and on Crete. Both the Mayor and the regional Vice Governor had strong links to many Australians including Victorians and were actively looking to enhance these links.

I should also note how impressive the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion was. I also visited the war memorial in Heraklion commemorating the defence of Crete against the Nazis in World War II, noting the brave defence by the Cretan people and Australian soldiers.

Athens

I was in Athens from 14-17 July and stayed at the Pan Athens at a cost of \$650. In Athens, I was honoured to meet with Vice Admiral Ioannis Drymouisis HN, Chief Hellenic Navy General Staff. This meeting was also organised by the Greek Consul in Melbourne with the assistance of Emmanuel Starakis, former President of the Cretan Association in Melbourne. I would like to express my gratitude to them. The Vice-Admiral was a very impressive individual who has been active in supporting first, a group of young Melbournians and, in the recent year, a group of young Australians, hosted as guests of the Greek Navy in an exchange that has been well received in both countries.

We discussed a range of policy issues. Greece was the first nation after Britain to offer assistance to Ukraine and the need for ongoing support for Ukraine was a point of discussion. Another key point discussed was border control and illegal migration. Whilst the coast guard in Greece has primary responsibility, in managing on sea responses, the navy is inevitably involved.

The first youth exchange was organised/co-ordinated by the Pancretan Association of Melbourne in association with the Hellenic National Defence General Staff. I intend to work closely with the Greek community in Melbourne to strengthen this exchange program.

In Athens, I also met at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs with Prof. Emer John Chrysolakis, Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy. Our very broad-ranging discussion included a number of political and bureaucratic colleagues, also involving former Deputy Head Of Mission at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Canberra, Theodoros Michaelopoulos, Acting Director for Asia and Oceania, Mr Nickolopoulos and Embassy Counsellor, Ms Dina Koutsoukos.

Also in Athens, I was pleased to meet with the Regional Governor of Attica, Giorgios Patoulis, his Chief of Staff and his media director. We discussed links between Attica and Victoria. We also discussed medical and health practitioner links.

I visited the National Archaeological Museum, Acropolis and Parthenon.

Milan

I was in Milan from 17-20 July and stayed at IH Hotels Ambasciatori at a cost of \$750. In Milan, I was honoured to meet with Willian Peasland and Sheralyn Derrick, Investment Directors, Australian Trade and Investment Commission to discuss trade between Italy and Victoria, particularly the issues surrounding trade and investment flows between Victoria and Lombardy, including Milan.

I was also honoured to meet Mr Raffaele Cattaneo, Undersecretary to the Presidency, International and European Relations, Regione Lombardia and Maria Luisa Scalise, Officer of Lombardy. The meeting was arranged with the assistance of the Italian Australian Business Chamber and the Italian Consulate General, Hanna Pappalardo and supported by Victoria's Commissioner for Europe, Gonul Serbest.

Victoria signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Region of Lombardy last year. This was supported in a bipartisan way by the Liberal Party. The Victorian Governor Linda Dessau visited Lombardy to endorse the signing.

The hosts were very keen to emphasise the size and significance of the Lombardy Region. Lombardy is the most prosperous region in Italy; with GDP per capita about 35% higher than the European

average, it represents one fifth of the Italian economy. It is also the leading region in the Italian economy as measured by total production and exports.

I indicated we supported the MOU and stronger links between us and the Lombard Government and the Lombard economy.

The Arts and Creative Industries and Cultural industries were a key point in the discussions.

Other trade and investment matters were discussed at length including the advantages of Lombard technology in waste and environmental management, circular economy and waste to energy.

This should be a major focus of future links.

I made points about the need for greater co-operation, including a visit to Victoria, with a focus on not just arts and cultural industries but also on waste management (including waste to energy) and the circular economy.

A number of senior people in Lombardy raised Victoria's cancellation of the Commonwealth Games, which was world-wide news in the week I was in Lombardy. There is no doubt this reprehensible decision to cancel a commitment has done significant damage to Victoria's international reputation.

Triennale Milano is stunning modern art museum in Milan located in a magnificent set of gardens with both permanent and revolving exhibitions. The museum has a focus on Italian design.

At Triennale Milano I was guest of the Fondation Cartier, which has a significant exhibition it has sponsored. Ms Grazia Quaroni, Director of Collections assisted with access to the exhibition.

The exhibition, Siamo Foresta, is sponsored by the Fondation Cartier. It addresses the future of the planet through indigenous artistic perspectives. It features artists and items from different cultures and countries, mainly indigenous communities and Latin American communities. A majority of the exhibits come from the Fondation Cartier collection.

Paris

I was in Paris from 20-23 July and stayed at Hotel Opera Lafayette at a cost of \$850. I was honoured to be escorted in a visit to the Musée Du Quai Branly Jacques Chirac as a guest of Clement Tougeron, the advisor to the Musée President. This is a magnificent museum. It is impressive in the size of its holdings and their focus on indigenous art and the cultures of Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas.

This is a distinctly post colonial project, but I detect it has real world political significance for France and its position within the West.

Their holdings are huge and include Australian Aboriginal exhibitions. But there are very obvious links and opportunities for us as a state to strike reciprocal arrangements. The exhibition of deep holdings and the clever storage approach is something we can learn from.

I was also honoured to visit the Fondation Cartier in Paris as a guest of Ms Grazia Quaroni, Director of Collections. The Gallery is stunning, surrounded by green and gardens, with massive light through huge glass walls.

The gallery has the capacity to manage several exhibitions, but I was particularly pleased to attend the exhibition of Ron Mueck, a talented Victorian artist.

Ms Grazia and I had a long discussion about the role of the Fondation and its innovative approach. Cartier has an obvious role and capacity to work with other galleries, including in Victoria. It is also a potential outlet for Victorian Exhibitions.

I was fortunate to be a guest of Christophe Leribault, President de l'Établissement public du musée de l'Orangeerie-Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, at the Musée d'Orsay at a private exhibition showing of Manet/Degas, a stunning exhibition. I was able to join supporters of the Musée for this small, escorted tour.

This magnificent exhibition makes clear the close links between the impressionist artists and I was interested to see the closely intertwined lives of Manet and Degas.

I was also very fortunate to be a guest of Christophe Leribault for a lengthy discussion later in the day that ranged over a wide terrain.

We discussed possible exchanges and clearly his visit to the NGV for the opening of the Bonnard exhibition this year had a big impact upon him. The current Bonnard approach has been well received in Paris. I thanked him for the magnificent contribution to the current Bonnard exhibition in Melbourne.

I discussed what he might be interested in. Obviously indigenous art has cache, uniqueness value.

In mentioning the links to Europe, I also pointed to key parts of the Australian art story.

I also drew his attention to the many links during the impressionist period between Europe and Australia, including the colonies before federation and the Heidelberg School group and their importance especially in Victoria and the many holdings of the NGV of this group.

We were able to discuss the ability of art to capture the national imagination.

Mr Leribault noted the distance to Australia, but also that he had much to see, and it is clear to me he will likely return to Victoria soon, with great support from all sides of politics.

I was also pleased to meet with Gönül Serbest, Victoria's Commissioner to Europe in Paris.

The meeting was very productive, and I was impressed with Ms Serbest's approach to setting up the new Paris office as Victoria's Commissioner for Europe. She has oversight of all Europe, excluding the UK, but including Turkey and North Africa as well as EU links and non-EU members.

She pointed out Paris was the most international city in Europe.

It is important to recognise Ms Serbest's links and history in trade and investment including close association with the Baillieu Government's 'super trade missions.'

We discussed energy policy and climate change issues, free trade agreement matters and the role of her office.

It was interesting to hear her note the effectiveness of New Zealand and the other Australian states, especially New South Wales in advocating for their people. She has staff in Germany and works with the AusTrade offices throughout Europe.

Ms Serbest noted the Belgian Princess is leading a trade mission to Sydney and Melbourne in September.

I have no doubt the Ms Serbest will acquit herself very strongly in her new role as Victoria's Commissioner to Europe. This is especially important given the size of the European economy and therefore the importance of Europe for Victorian trade and inbound investment and the added significance of this position post BREXIT. Inbound investment into Victoria will offer very important opportunities to build collaboration and strengthen the Victorian economy, particularly on energy policy and financial services. I was appreciative of the opportunity to better understand these trade and investment flows which will help strengthen the Opposition's policy formulation.

London

I was in London from 23-27 July and stayed at Blades Hotel at a cost of \$950. At 5.30am London time on Monday 24 July I participated in a VCAT directions hearing teleconference and at 12.30am London time on Wednesday 26 July I participated in another VCAT directions hearing teleconference.

The Monday VCAT directions hearing related to the Major Transport Infrastructure Authority and the Victorian Rail Track Corporation seeking the Tribunal's review of a decision of the Victorian Information Commissioner that information the MTIA and VicTrack claimed to be exempt should be released to me under Freedom of Information.

The Wednesday VCAT directions hearing related to the Department of Premier and Cabinet seeking the Tribunal's review of a decision by the Victorian Information Commissioner that DPC's Quarterly Asset Investment Report should be provided to me under Freedom of Information.

One wonders what the point is of the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner if the Andrews government seeks routinely to overturn at VCAT with the assistance of an army of high priced and taxpayer funded lawyers more and more of the independent umpire's decisions. It is a very sad state of affairs.

At Westminster and as Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations committee, I was greatly honoured and particularly interested to join the House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee Chaired by Lord Hunt of Wirral in their scheduled Committee meeting to consider their normal program. It was enlightening to see their procedures and collaborative approach to both the technical and policy considerations of the bills to be considered. Advisors presented to the committee their relevant part of the agenda. The meeting had 11 members present plus around 4 staff, with just 1 apology.

I learned new concepts and noted the expanding discussion on Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) where a regulatory change is being made or a "tertiary" regulation is being made. The concept of "Tertiary" regulation is new to me – referring to not primary legislation or regulations made pursuant to an act (secondary legislation) but regulations or rules made by separate bodies established by government and given power to lay down rules etc. Like in other jurisdictions in the Westminster Parliamentary world, including Victoria, more of what is effectively regulation is occurring through other bodies, sometimes statutory bodies, and sometimes external bodies and there are legitimate questions regarding parliamentary oversight.

Like with SARC often the Committee's intervention is to write to the Minister and seek explanation and/or change.

The difference with this committee is its interest in 'policy' matters and its non-partisan acceptance of information from the community and interest groups and the focus on improving the policy outcome.

I was also fortunate to obtain a meeting with the Chair of the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee of the Lords, Lord McLoughlin. He has been a very senior MP and in Parliament from 1986-2019 in the Commons. He came into the Lords in 2020. He has previously been Conservative Party Chairman.

He has a small, expert and highly technical team. The committee works mainly on the basis of consensus.

The issue of “tertiary” legislation or regulation was discussed.

I discussed also matters around infrastructure and cost containment. Lord McLoughlin was previously responsible for the cross-city tunnel (Elizabeth Line) and other infrastructure such as HS2.

We discussed models that seek to scope costs ahead of time and establish bipartisan approaches. He pointed to the National Infrastructure Commission of the United Kingdom (chaired by Sir John Armitt) as a key contact and a sophisticated approach. It is clear there is much to be learned from British methods.

I was very fortunate to be offered a meeting with the Jonathan Whiffing, Commons Clerk, Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments Clerk and European Statutory Instruments Committee Select Committee Team, House of Commons, Justin Leslie, Counsel for the Domestic Legislation team and Chris Salmon Percival, Deputy Head (and Clerk to the DPRRC, JCSI and SLSC) Legislation Office, House of Lords. I am particularly indebted to Chris Salmon Percival for her assistance in arranging this and other meetings.

The matters discussed included integrity, infrastructure oversight, the arts and cultural matters and statutory instruments and regulations, their monitoring and reporting, including for human rights breaches and other infringements on rights.

Significantly, also discussed at this meeting was their experience and learnings on parliamentary integrity including the relevance of British learnings to recent IBAC and Ombudsman reports appraising me of ways to strengthen parliamentary integrity and anti-corruption measures for the Victorian Parliament.

Whilst in London and with my Arts and Creative Industries portfolio hat on, I also visited a number of key museums and galleries with a specific focus on visitor experience, accessibility and the provision of special facilities and programs to cater for educational experiences.

In London I visited the office of the Commonwealth Games Federation but was unable to meet the President or CEO given they had departed to the country from London ahead of the forthcoming games in Jamaica.

I did meet briefly with the Executive Assistant to the President of the Commonwealth Games Federation and took the opportunity to convey the Victorian Liberal Party’s concern, including from my Leader, John Pesutto, at the shock decision of the Andrews Labor government to unilaterally cancel the Commonwealth Games.

I was clear that the Liberal Party in government, given its focus on financial rectitude and proper assessment, would not have committed to an inadequately scoped games and that we strongly supported the Commonwealth Games going forward.

Summary of results and outcomes

Through my meetings I have built closer links with sister states and cities, including economic links, and key international arts and creative industries organisations and stakeholders, with a specific focus on visitor experience, accessibility and the provision of special facilities and programs to cater for educational experiences, to the benefit of both my parliamentary and electorate business.

Importantly, in Lombardy and Paris I strengthened my understanding of opportunities for trade and investment links between Victoria and Lombardy, and thereby Italy, and France. Developing policy to facilitate trade must be a focus for all sides of politics and taking constructive steps to facilitate inbound investment will be critical to our state's economic future. Throughout this process, I have strengthened links with the relevant consuls (Greece and Italy) and with local community organisations based in Victoria.

I place on record my thanks to the Italian and Greek Consuls General, Hanna Pappalardo and Emmanuel Kakavalakos, and key local community links including Bill Papastergiadis OAM, President of the Greek community of Melbourne and Victoria, who was most helpful. The Greek Consul assisted with key links in Thessaloniki, Athens and Crete. Mr Papastergiadis provided assisted with links in Athens.

The relationship between Lombardy and Victoria will need to be further fostered and I commit to working with relevant firms, the Italian Australian Chamber of Commerce and the Italian Consulate to strengthen these links and to develop further policy. I will also work with the Greek community of Melbourne and the Greek Consul to build critical exchanges, educational links and to further build on the strong cultural and heritage connections between Victoria and Greece.

Through my meetings and visits to museums and galleries I have enhanced and broadened my understanding and knowledge relating to the broader international arts community and collections – enabling me to advocate for my portfolio and electorate more effectively.

In Westminster, in particular, I enhanced and broadened my understanding and knowledge around scrutiny of legislation and regulations in other democracies – enabling me to contribute in particular more effectively and thoughtfully to the work of the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee and significantly, ahead of the introduction of new integrity and anti-corruption legislation in the Victorian Parliament, was able to discuss the model currently in operation in Westminster and potential learnings for Victoria.

The Hon David Davis MP
Member for Southern Metropolitan Region

August 2023